

For over 2 years, the Meyers, a family in my district, have been waiting to bring home their son and daughter, Papy and Octavie. We can do better for Papy and Octavie and all the other children waiting to come home to their families.

As the Department of State continues to work to bring home these children, S. 1300 would provide much-needed relief to American families going through this harrowing experience. I urge my colleagues to vote for this legislation. It is the right thing to do and worthy of your support.

Ms. LOFGREN. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1300, the Adoptive Family Relief Act. This bill seeks to remove obstacles for immigrant visas to be issued to adopted children from other countries. It eliminates fees for such visas.

Clearly, the challenge of caring for orphans due to crises worldwide is increasing. Rather than frustrate, however, or undermine the compassion and the love of American families who seek to adopt, this legislation modestly seeks to remove some of those barriers and some of those obstacles.

I would point out to my colleagues that I have held of number of hearings on adoption in my subcommittee, the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. At one of those hearings several months ago, one of our witnesses made a very keen observation that there are more than 50 million children orphaned on the continent of Africa; and if you put that number in perspective, that would make that number of children, if they were in a single country, the fourth largest country in all of Africa after Nigeria, Ethiopia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

One remedy, of course, for this crisis is intercountry adoption, which sometimes brings children from Africa to our shores to provide them with loving homes. Of course, this is only a partial remedy. Many do find a place to live, a home with family members, but many others are left to fend for themselves.

This legislation recognizes that countries' policies do matter. Look at the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Currently, there are more than 400 American families who have successfully adopted children from the DRC. However, due to the DRC Government's suspension of exit permits, which was implemented beginning in September of 2013, many of these families have been unable to bring their adopted children home to the United States. About a dozen of those children have paid with their lives, dying in the country before they could receive medical attention. Others are in dire need of medical aid which, again, this legislation would help, at least, in terms of the

families to give them a bridge for the financial burdens they face.

I would point out that at one of my hearings, one of the witnesses really, in a very powerful way, said—and her name was Jovana Jones, an adoptive parent—“As adoptive parents, we spend years preparing, and it is imperative that our children come home immediately. We have done our part. Our families have done all we can, and we are at our limit.”

And then she said: “Our arms are open now, and our homes are ready to receive them today. We pray that our government mirrors our dedication and acts now so that our children come home soon.”

This is a very important piece of legislation that hopefully will facilitate the adoption and, at least, help those parents who are putting their money on the line; and it allows them to facilitate that adoption, to just hang in there until they can get their children.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, before coming to the floor, I wanted to reassure myself that the State Department did not have the authority to waive these fees just administratively. It is pretty clear that they need this legislation in order to waive these fees. In fact, they want to waive the fees; they want to support the families. So there is no argument here between the House and Senate, between Republicans and Democrats, between the administration and the legislative branch. This is something that we can all agree on.

You know, to raise kids is one of the most wonderful experiences you can ever have, and we have wonderful American families that want to provide a home for orphans, not only in the DRC, but to orphans all around the world. So it is really important for those of us in the government, administration, and Congress to do what we can to support American families who want to raise these adoptive children.

It is worth noting that the DRC is the problem today, but we have had other problems in the past in other countries, in Latin America and Asia. So this change in the law is going to provide the necessary basis for relieving parents from excessive fees should this occur, God forbid, with other countries.

We would ask our State Department to redouble its efforts with the DRC to get these exit permits underway. It is really unfair to the children and their parents to keep these kids stranded.

□ 1745

Finally, I would just note that we have not done very much by way of anything touching on immigration where we could have bipartisan support. I still wish that we had before us comprehensive immigration reform. That is not this, but it doesn't mean that we shouldn't support this. I think that it is important that we pass this and show these American parents that we are on their side and we hope that they can use the funds that they save

to provide for their new sons and daughters.

Mr. Speaker, unless the gentleman has additional speakers, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there are very few things that we do in this body more important than trying to make sure that parentless little children have hope in life. Through our State Department, all across the world we do very laudable things to try to make sure they have this chance in life. Sometimes it is orphanages; sometimes it is just other types of help through NGOs.

In this particular case, we are doing everything that we can to facilitate children being put into a loving family on a permanent basis. To bring sometimes childless parents together with often parentless children is, I think, a very beautiful and noble effort on our part. I hope that this bill allows that in a greater way with the DRC and, as Ms. LOFGREN mentioned, with other states across the world if it becomes necessary.

I am grateful for all the bipartisan support. I know this is something that we have come together on. Again, I express appreciation to Chairman ROYCE, Chairman GOODLATTE, and to the gentlewoman who has expressed her support for this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1300.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 1553, by the yeas and nays; and H.R. 1839, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

SMALL BANK EXAM CYCLE REFORM ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1553) to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to specify which smaller institutions may qualify for an 18-month examination cycle, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 411, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—411

Abraham	Clarke (NY)	Flores
Adams	Clawson (FL)	Forbes
Aderholt	Clay	Fortenberry
Aguilar	Cleaver	Foster
Allen	Coffman	Fox
Amash	Cohen	Frankel (FL)
Amodei	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Ashford	Collins (GA)	Frelinghuysen
Babin	Collins (NY)	Fudge
Barletta	Comstock	Gabbard
Barr	Conaway	Gallego
Barton	Connolly	Garamendi
Bass	Cook	Garrett
Beatty	Cooper	Gibbs
Becerra	Costa	Gibson
Benish	Costello (PA)	Gohmert
Bera	Courtney	Goodlatte
Beyer	Cramer	Gosar
Bilirakis	Crawford	Gowdy
Bishop (GA)	Crenshaw	Graham
Bishop (MI)	Crowley	Granger
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Graves (GA)
Black	Culberson	Graves (LA)
Blackburn	Cummings	Graves (MO)
Blum	Curbelo (FL)	Grayson
Blumenauer	Davis (CA)	Green, Al
Bonamici	Davis, Danny	Green, Gene
Bost	Davis, Rodney	Griffith
Boustany	DeFazio	Grothman
Boyle, Brendan	DeGette	Guinta
F.	Delaney	Guthrie
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Hahn
Brady (TX)	DelBene	Hanna
Brat	Denham	Hardy
Bridenstine	Dent	Harper
Brooks (AL)	DeSantis	Harris
Brooks (IN)	DeSaulnier	Hartzler
Brown (FL)	DesJarlais	Hastings
Brownley (CA)	Deutch	Heck (NV)
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart	Heck (WA)
Buck	Doggett	Hensarling
Bucshon	Dold	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Donovan	Hice, Jody B.
Bustos	Doyle, Michael	Higgins
Butterfield	F.	Hill
Byrne	Duckworth	Himes
Calvert	Duffy	Hinojosa
Capps	Duncan (SC)	Holding
Cárdenas	Duncan (TN)	Honda
Carney	Edwards	Hoyer
Carson (IN)	Ellison	Huelskamp
Carter (GA)	Ellmers (NC)	Huffman
Carter (TX)	Emmer (MN)	Huizenga (MI)
Cartwright	Eshoo	Hultgren
Castor (FL)	Esty	Hurd (TX)
Castro (TX)	Farenthold	Hurt (VA)
Chabot	Farr	Israel
Chaffetz	Fattah	Issa
Chu, Judy	Fincher	Jackson Lee
Ciilline	Fleischmann	Jeffries
Clark (MA)	Fleming	Jenkins (KS)

Johnson (GA)	Miller (FL)	Sanford
Johnson (OH)	Miller (MI)	Sarbanes
Johnson, E. B.	Moolenaar	Scalise
Johnson, Sam	Mooney (WV)	Schakowsky
Jolly	Moore	Schiff
Jones	Moulton	Schrader
Jordan	Mullin	Schweikert
Joyce	Mulvaney	Scott (VA)
Kaptur	Murphy (FL)	Scott, Austin
Katko	Murphy (PA)	Scott, David
Keating	Nadler	Sensenbrenner
Kelly (MS)	Napolitano	Serrano
Kelly (PA)	Neal	Sessions
Kennedy	Neugebauer	Sewell (AL)
Kildee	Newhouse	Sherman
Kilmer	Noem	Shimkus
Kind	Nolan	Shuster
King (IA)	Norcross	Sires
King (NY)	Nugent	Slaughter
Kinzinger (IL)	Nunes	Smith (MO)
Kirkpatrick	O'Rourke	Smith (NE)
Kline	Olson	Smith (NJ)
Knight	Palazzo	Smith (WA)
Kuster	Pallone	Speier
Labrador	Palmer	Stefanik
LaHood	Pascrell	Stewart
LaMalfa	Paulsen	Stivers
Lamborn	Payne	Stutzman
Lance	Pearce	Swalwell (CA)
Langevin	Pelosi	Takai
Larsen (WA)	Perlmutter	Takano
Larson (CT)	Perry	Thompson (CA)
Latta	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Lawrence	Peterson	Thompson (PA)
Lee	Pingree	Thornberry
Levin	Pittenger	Tiberi
Lewis	Pitts	Tipton
Lieu, Ted	Pocan	Titus
Lipinski	Poe (TX)	Tonko
LoBiondo	Poliquin	Torres
Loeb	Polis	Trott
Lofgren	Pompeo	Tsongas
Long	Posey	Turner
Loudermilk	Price (NC)	Upton
Love	Price, Tom	Valadao
Lowenthal	Quigley	Van Hollen
Lowe	Rangel	Vargas
Lucas	Ratcliffe	Veasey
Luetkemeyer	Reed	Vela
Lujan Grisham	Reichert	Velázquez
(NM)	Renacci	Visclosky
Luján, Ben Ray	Ribble	Wagner
(NM)	Rice (NY)	Walberg
Lynch	Rice (SC)	Walden
MacArthur	Richmond	Walker
Maloney,	Rigell	Walters, Mimi
Carolyn	Roby	Walz
Maloney, Sean	Roe (TN)	Wasserman
Marino	Rogers (AL)	Schultz
Massie	Rogers (KY)	Waters, Maxine
Matsui	Rohrabacher	Watson Coleman
McCarthy	Rokita	Weber (TX)
McCaul	Ros-Lehtinen	Webster (FL)
McClintock	Roskam	Welch
McCollum	Ross	Wenstrup
McDermott	Rothfus	Westerman
McGovern	Rouzer	Westmoreland
McHenry	Roybal-Allard	Wilson (FL)
McKinley	Royce	Wittman
McMorris	Ruiz	Womack
Rodgers	Ruppersberger	Woodall
McNerney	Rush	Yoder
McSally	Russell	Yoho
Meadows	Ryan (OH)	Young (AK)
Meehan	Ryan (WI)	Young (IA)
Meeks	Salmon	Young (IN)
Meng	Sánchez, Linda	Zeldin
Messer	T.	Zinke
Mica	Sanchez, Loretta	

NOT VOTING—23

Capuano	Hudson	Sinema
Clyburn	Hunter	Smith (TX)
Conyers	Jenkins (WV)	Walorski
Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Whitfield
Engel	Lummis	Williams
Fitzpatrick	Marchant	Wilson (SC)
Grijalva	Rooney (FL)	Yarmuth
Gutiérrez	Simpson	

□ 1857

Mr. HONDA and Ms. BASS changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 534 I was not present due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING VICTIMS OF UMPQUA COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRAGEDY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and remember the lives of those who were taken too soon at Umpqua Community College on Thursday, October 1, 2015.

I ask that all Americans pray for the friends and families of these nine victims as they grieve and rebuild from this tragedy.

We must also keep in our thoughts and prayers those who were injured physically and emotionally by this event. It will take time, our support, and patience as they grieve and recover.

Mr. Speaker, Roseburg is a small, strong, and tight-knit community. I am heartened, and not surprised, by the acts of kindness and generosity in response to this unthinkable act. We call that “UCC Strong,” “Roseburg Strong.” It is this strong spirit that will carry everyone through this difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the House pause for a moment of silence in honor of those impacted by the tragic events at Umpqua Community College last week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will observe a moment of silence.

REFORMING ACCESS FOR INVESTMENTS IN STARTUP ENTERPRISES ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1839) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 to exempt certain transactions involving purchases by accredited investors, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 30, as follows: